



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Review Staffing and Level of Service for Park Rangers
Take Appropriate Action.

MEETING DATE: October 16, 1991

PREPARED BY: Parks and Recreation Director

RECOMMENDATION ACTION: That the City Council review Ranger Staffing and take appropriate action.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: There have been requests by citizens that staffing be increased in our Park Ranger Section. The area of primary concern was Lodi Lake and specifically a request for staffing to patrol the Nature Area.

In the 1991-92 budget I made requests for an additional full-time Ranger whose responsibilities would include patrol of the Nature Area and Lodi Lake. This would be a new classification - Parks Interpretive Ranger whose duties would be divided between patrol @ 20% and community education 80%. This ranger would develop a Neighborhood Park Watch Program. Further plans are to develop a youth program called the Junior Ranger Program to involve youth in caring for their parks. We have since developed the Discovery Center at Lodi Lake. This person would be in charge of operating this center. Other duties would be to coordinate the department's docent program. Since many duties would relate to the Nature Area, the level of patrol would increase. The use of volunteers would mean a cost effective way to monitor and control activities in the Nature Area.

Also included in last year's budget was a request for additional seasonal labor to provide patrol of our parks at night in a more comprehensive manner. We have had good results with our canine program. However, the extensive amount of training involved has meant numerous hours of overtime for our canine ranger. I therefore requested overtime hours to cover this expenditure. We expended in excess of \$5,000.00 in overtime for rangers in budget year 1990-91.

Attached are staffing schedules. They are broken down into "On Season" and "Off Season" categories. They are further broken down into our current staffing level and proposed staffing levels. If these are compared, you will be able to see the number of rangers on duty at a given time. I have not proposed to run our ranger operation on a twenty-four hour a day schedule. It should be noted that in our Master Plan of Lodi Lake, that a fence around the Nature Area is proposed which would allow us to close the Nature Area during certain hours. Gates on Parking Lots at some of our Parks would also assist us in enforcing Park hours. Fencing of Parks is also possible in lieu of continuing to add Rangers. I am not recommending these alternatives at this time.

APPROVED: _____

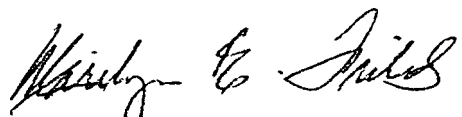
THOMAS A. PETERSON
City Manager



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I also requested new communication equipment for our department. We cannot communicate across town with our current radio system. The rangers are most drastically affected by this problem as we cannot call for ranger assistance without going through police dispatch. If the police are busy, they will not summon the rangers and act as intermediary. See the attached letter that we pursue solving this problem.

FUNDING :


Marilyn E. Field
Acting Director, Parks and Recreation Dept.

Prepared by: Scott Essin, Parks Superintendent

SE:cld

Attachments

LODI PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
125 NORTH STOCKTON STREET
LODI, CALIFORNIA 95240
(209)-333-6742

MEMORANDUM

TO: Scott Essin
FROM: Marilyn ..
DATE: February 22, 1991
SUBJECT: Justification for a radio system for Recreation Division

Currently the Recreation Staff, including the Parks and Recreation Director, do not have radios in their cars; nor do we have a base station to the Parks Division radio system in the building. This means that we have no means of communicating with the Parks employees other than leaving messages, contacting your secretary and asking her to relay info-, or finding a telephone and calling the office for help,

I believe you know my absolute frustration with our current radio system and our Park Rangers!! We have no means of reaching these people other than locating a telephone, calling the police dispatch and asking them to call. Recently we had a situation at one of our afterschool playgrounds where the leader attempted to contact Park Patrol. She called the police dispatch and when asked if this was a dire emergency and upon answering 'no' was disconnected. She waited several minutes and again tried, and was told to call back as they were very busy answering police calls. She finally called our office and I was able to get some help out to her,

I have communicated to you and Ron on a number of occasions the importance I place on our Department having a radio or cellular phone system so that we can operate in a productive and efficient manner. The recreation division has ended up renting or borrowing portable radio systems to handle large special events and or tournaments whereby it is absolutely necessary that we have some means of contacting numerous personnel that are scattered among our various facilities.

Many of our locations do not have access to telephones or the ones that do have pay phones are many times out-of-order so we are without means of communication.

Lodi Parks and Recreation Department
Current Parks Ranger Schedule
November 1990 through March 1991

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
-8am						F	F
9am							
10am							
11am							
12pm			F	F	F		
1pm	S	S				S	S
2pm			S				
3pm							
4pm							
5pm							
6pm							
7pm							
8pm							
9pm							
10pm							
11pm							
12am							
1am							
2am							
3am							

F- Full Time Ranger

S- Senior Ranger

Lodi Parks and Recreation Department
Current Parks Ranger Schedule
March through October 1991

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	C				C	I	I
8am							
9am		2	I	2		2	2
10am							
11am				I	I		
12pm							
1pm							
2pm			2	C	2	C	C
3pm							
4pm							
5pm							
6pm							
7pm							
8pm							
9pm							
10pm							
11pm							
12am							
1am							
2am							
3am							

I- Interpretive Ranger (Seasonal) - Assigned Nature Area/Lake (opens parks weekends)
C- Chief Ranger - All Parks
2- Ranger II - All Parks

**Lodi Parks and Recreation Department
Proposed Parks Ranger Schedule
On Season 1991-92**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1				I	I	I
-8am							
9am					1	1	1
10am					S	S	S
11am							
12pm	2	2	2	2			
1pm							
2pm							
3pm	F		S	S	F	F	F
4pm							
5pm							
6pm							
7pm							
8pm							
9pm							
10pm							
11pm							
12am							
1am							
2am							
3am							

S- Senior Ranger - Full Time (2080)

F- Full Time Ranger - Full Time (2080)

I- Interpretive Ranger - 40 FT Contract (2080)

1- Seasonal 1 - 30 PT Contract (1200) - 5 days/week, 6 hours/day

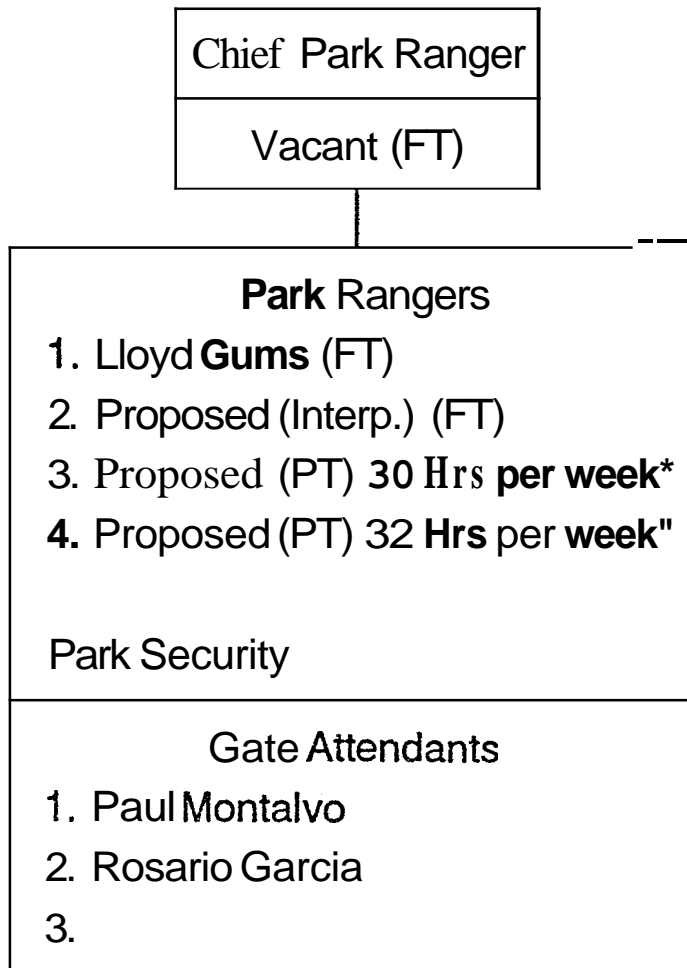
2- Seasonal 2 - 32 PT Contract (960) - 4 days/week, 8 hours/day

**Lodi Parks and Recreation Department
Proposed Parks Ranger Schedule
Winter Wonths 1991-92**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	C				C	I	I
-8am							
9am		2	I	2		2	2
10am							
11am				I	I		
12pm							
1pm							
2pm			2	C	2	C	C
3pm							
4pm							
5pm							
6pm							
7pm							
8pm							
9pm							
10pm							
11pm							
12am							
1am							
2am							
3am							

I- Interpretive Ranger (Seasonal) -Assigned Nature Area/Lake (opens parks weekends)
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Lodi Parks & Recreation Department Park Ranger Organizational Chart Proposed for 1991-92 Budget Year



*Seasonal(April-Nov 1st)

**The rest of year 3 FT people will cover parks.